



## Wisconsin's Runoff Management Rules

# NR 153 Targeted Runoff Management (TRM) Grant Program

***NR 153 is part of 8 Department of Natural Resources rules that address runoff pollution (also known as nonpoint source pollution), the major cause of polluted waters in Wisconsin and the United States***

***Complete versions of the Runoff Management rules can be obtained by visiting the DNR Runoff Management Program Web page (<http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/water/wm/nps/index.htm>) or by contacting:***

***Wisconsin DNR  
Runoff Management/  
WT 2  
Attn.: Carol Holden  
P.O. Box 7921  
Madison, WI 53707  
(608)266-0140***

The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) will use this new rule to administer the Targeted Runoff Management Grant Program. Grants under this program (also known as "TRM" Grants) will provide funding to eligible governmental units to control nonpoint sources of agricultural and urban storm water runoff.

The grant program provides financial support for implementation activities to decrease the impact of storm water runoff on ground and surface waters. The new grant will **not** take the place of existing grants to counties for agricultural runoff control under the Priority Watershed and Priority Lakes Program--that funding will continue until projects are completed. During and after the transition period, TRM grants will be used statewide, both inside and outside of priority watershed and priority lake areas.

Governmental units (including cities, counties, villages, towns, special purpose districts, and regional planning commissions) are eligible for TRM grants. The funds may be used directly for municipal projects or to provide cost-share assistance and limited technical support to private landowners. Under limited circumstances, the DNR may make grants directly to state agencies to control nonpoint pollution coming

from lands they own or operate. TRM grants **may not** be used if the source of storm water is regulated under Wisconsin law as a point source of pollution (e.g., a large livestock feeding operation regulated by NR 243 or a municipal separate storm sewer system or industrial storm water discharge regulated under NR 216). Grants may not be used on lands where nonpoint pollution controls are already adequate or to cover construction site erosion or post-construction runoff from newly developed areas.

The TRM Grant Program is meant to protect and improve waters statewide (not just in priority watersheds and priority lake areas) and will be targeted to address high-priority resource problems. TRM grants may be used to control storm water pollution from either rural or urban land uses. More than one TRM grant can be awarded to cover pollution sources in any given geographic area. Projects that will be fully funded by DATCP under ATCP 50 are not eligible for TRM grants.

Best Management Practices (BMPs) eligible for cost sharing are contained in NR 154. Technical standards for most agricultural practices are in ATCP 50. Best management practices not listed in NR 154, or technical standards not included in ATCP 50 may still be eligible for funding if approved by the DNR.

## NR 153 Targeted Runoff Management Grant (TRM) Program

A TRM grant can cover up to 70 percent of technical assistance activities and up to 70 percent of urban and rural BMP construction costs. Property acquisition required for runoff management is eligible for 50 percent cost sharing. Easements may also be acquired as needed to install certain BMPs including wetland restoration, critical area stabilization, riparian buffers and structural urban practices. The TRM program may cover up to 70% of easement costs to install an agricultural practice and up to 50% for an urban practice.

Governmental units that receive TRM grants will enter into contractual agreements with the DNR identifying where, when, and how the grant may be used, along with other conditions and administrative requirements. A governmental unit using a TRM grant to provide assistance to private landowners is required to enter into a similar contractual agreement with the landowner. Grant recipients must comply with program conditions and provide any local portion of the project costs they have agreed to cover. Grant recipients must install all BMPs to which they have agreed and must maintain structural practices in sound operating condition for a minimum of 10 years. Non-structural cropping practices, such as conservation tillage, do not require long-term maintenance periods. All

maintenance periods are for cost share administrative purposes only, and do not reduce the landowner's responsibilities to meet performance standards under NR 151. Cost-share agreements that exceed \$10,000 (increases to \$14,000 in 2009) must be filed with the county Register of Deeds so that the



cost-share requirements pass to future owners of the land covered by the cost-share agreement.

Projects are selected for funding based on a competitive process. Projects must be able to meet basic screening criteria before they can be scored. These criteria assure that the project meets basic eligibility criteria set forth in the statute and the rule and that the project can be conducted in the time frame allotted. Applications that meet the screening criteria are then scored to compete for the available funding. Applications are scored based on several

factors, including water quality need and extent of pollutant control, fiscal accountability and cost effectiveness, project evaluation and monitoring, extent of local support, consistency with statewide and local resource management priorities, and likelihood of project success. Projects located in areas where the local governmental unit has a sound implementation or enforcement program for controlling storm water runoff will receive additional points.

TRM applications must be submitted to the DNR by April 15 to be considered for funding in the following calendar year. By November 1, the DNR will select projects for funding based on the project score and the recommendations of the Wisconsin Land and Water Conservation Board. DNR typically administers these projects to be 1 to 3 years in duration, although projects may be extended to a fourth year if warranted.

### **For information about the TRM Grant Program, contact:**

**Mary E. Wagner**  
**Wisconsin Department of**  
**Natural Resources**  
**Runoff Management**  
**WT/2, P.O. Box 7921**  
**Madison, WI 53707-7921**  
**(608)266-9260.**

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